

Houston's General Plan

QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 18, 2014
2:00 p.m.



PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

Today's Agenda

1. Overview of the General Plan
2. Leadership Structure
3. Process and Timeline
4. Next Steps



What is a general plan?

- Broad policy document for City
- Defines long-term success and steps to accomplish
- Uses ground-up, community-driven process
- Many prior related efforts
 - None adopted by Council
- Of 24 most populous cities, 21 have a general plan or similar



Prior Work

- Mayor directed Planning & Development Department to explore concept
 - Fall 2013
- Project consultant: Peter J. Park
- Internal meetings with multiple City departments, Council Members and key City staff
- External meetings with major institutions, organizations, and focus groups



Prior Work

- April 2014 – Quality of Life Committee
- June 2014 – Memo to Mayor Parker and Council
- July 2014 – Invitation to Council to serve on Stakeholder Committee
- July 2014 – Kick off celebration for committee members



Why Plan?

- Support for a **citywide vision** and coordinated strategy
- **Strategic regional vision** necessary for Houston to fully realize global opportunity and potential
- Projected growth provides opportunities but requires **new and better approaches**
- Need for **continuity across changes** in City leadership and key staff



Benefits

- Ensure City efforts are **coordinated** – both internally and externally
- Increase **collaboration** across City departments
- Maximize **effectiveness** of City efforts by enabling a **proactive approach** to solving problems
- Accelerate **quality policymaking** at every level
- Increase **public engagement**
- Create **consistency** across changes in City leadership



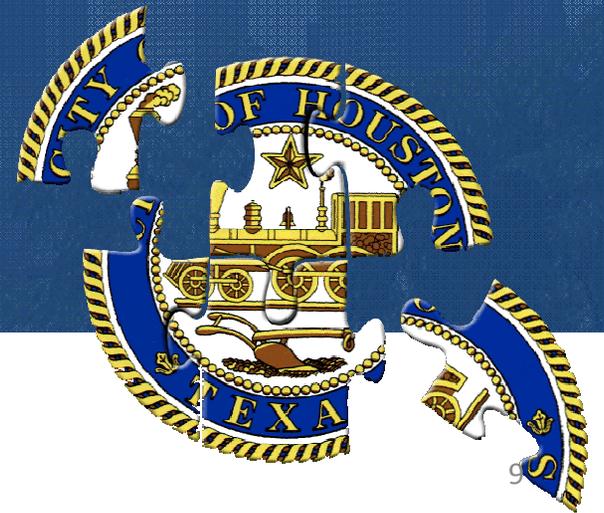
Key Considerations

- Plan will rely on results of past community engagement and visioning exercises
- Plan will build on existing information in existing plans, policies, practices, and regulations
- Plan will provide guidance for future plans, policies, and regulations



Major Components

- Vision Statement
- Planning Coordination Tool
- Performance Indicators
- Neighborhood Enhancement Strategy
- Growth & Development Strategy
- Implementation Strategy



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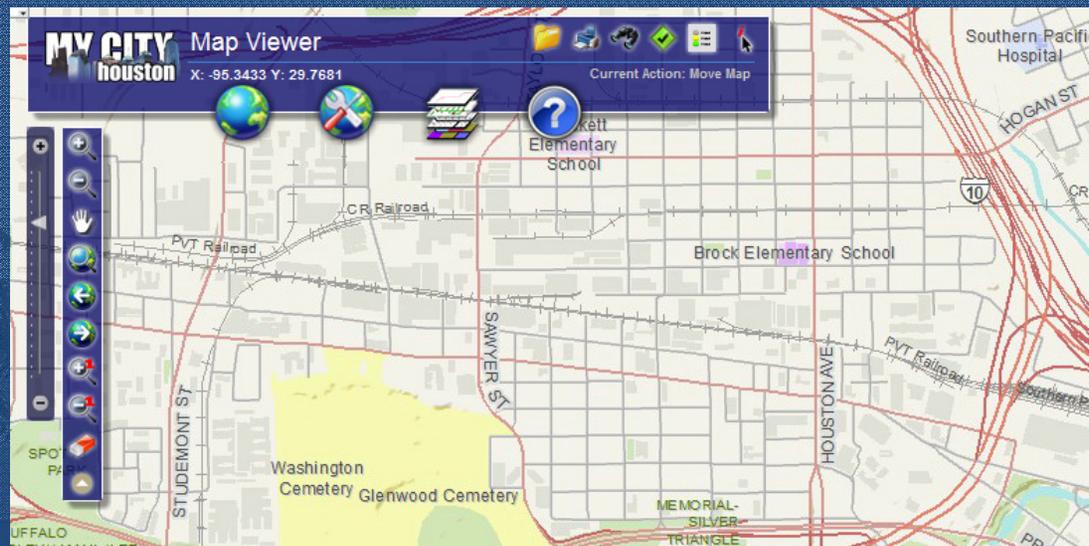
Vision Statement

- Description of preferred long-term outcomes
- Vision and goals could address:
 - Jobs and sustainable development
 - Fiscal responsibility
 - Infrastructure
 - Public safety
 - Quality of Life
- Vision statement will be presented to the public for comment and confirmation



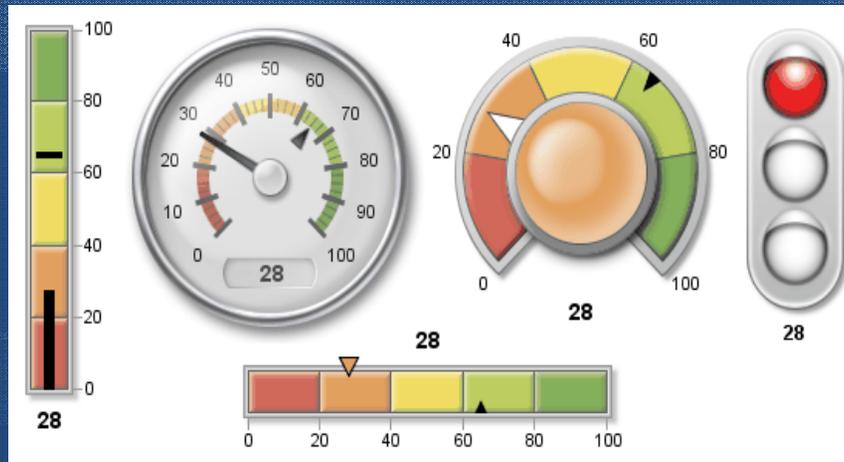
Planning Coordination Tool

- Map showing plans across Houston
- Simple, easy to use
- Various organizations
- Updated in perpetuity



Performance Indicators

- Further define goals
- Measuring progress on implementing the vision statement
- Existing indicators available



Neighborhood Enhancement Strategy

- Document current approach
- Examples:
 - Neighborhood character preservation tools
 - Reduction of blight and substandard living conditions
 - Cleanup and beautification projects
- Identify gaps and opportunities



Growth & Development Strategy

- Document current approach
- Examples include:
 - Incentives such as 380 Agreements
 - TIRZ/Management Districts
 - Development regulations such as Transit Corridors
 - Capital projects
- Identify gaps and opportunities

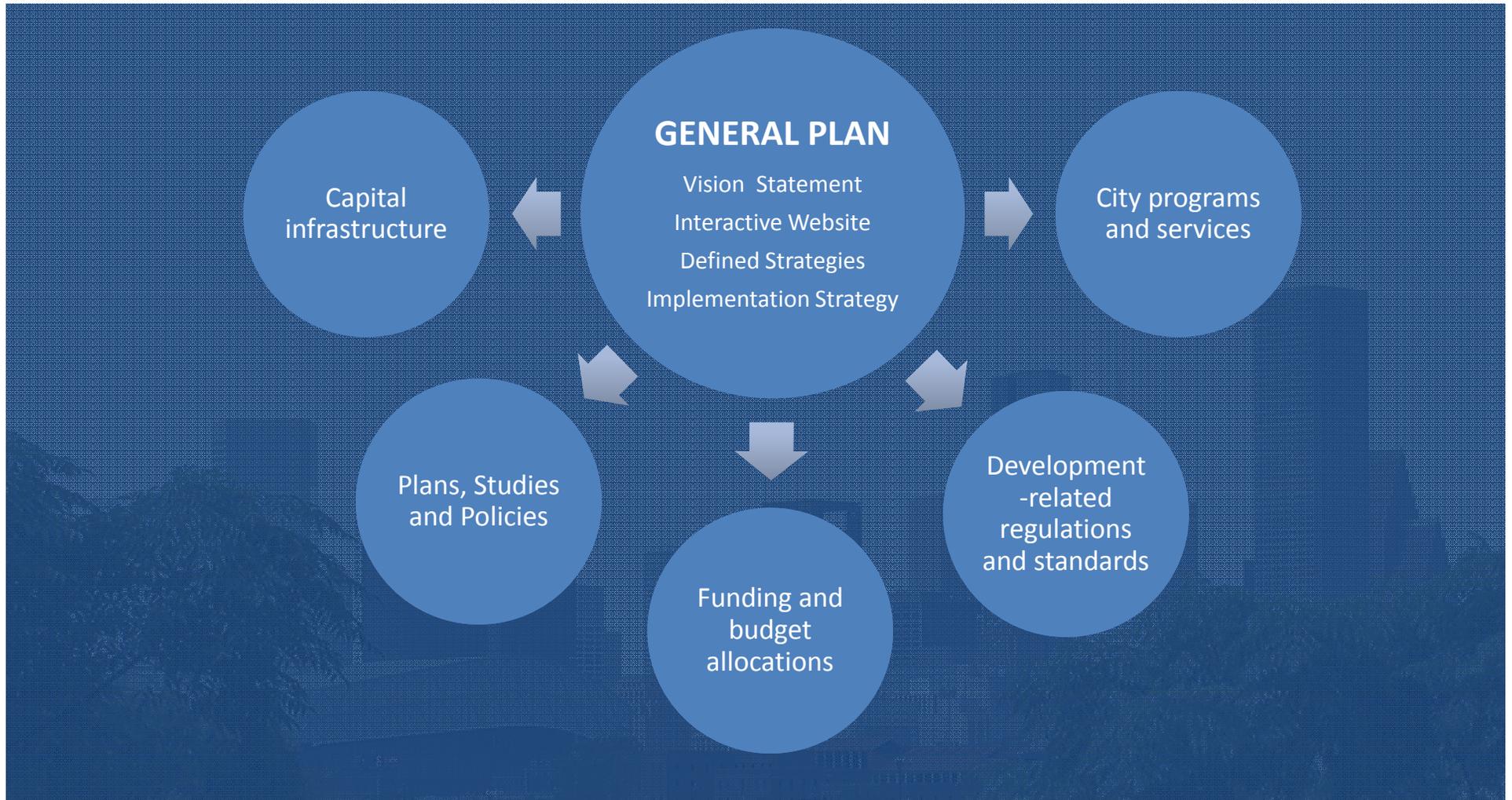


Implementation Strategy

- Consensus on next steps
- Elevation of recommendations from prior studies
- High level



The General Plan



Leadership Structure

- Planning & Development Department
- Steering Committee
- Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Technical Working Group
 - City departments
 - Outside agencies and organizations
- Planning Commission
- City Council



Resources

- Much of project performed in-house
 - Research, public outreach, logistics
- Professional planning services needed
 - Strategy and analysis
 - Technology tools, graphics and layout
- Provide contract for Council consideration
 - Under \$600K, with \$200K from general fund
 - Finalizing funding partners – cover approximately 2/3 of funding needs



Timeline and Milestones

Project Milestones



Next Steps

- Council consideration of planning services contract
 - October 2014
- Finalize vision and goals with committees
- Seek public input on vision and goals including Quality of Life Committee



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